

FEBRUARY 2024 GRACE NOTES

A NOTE FROM REVEREND BETSY+

While I was out recovering from knee surgery, a bit of lethargy began to set in. I've described it as "circling the drain." More than once I told John, "I have a bad case of the I-don't-want-tos." It was a little like being on a merry-go-round that was slowing down to a stop. But then, in the nick of time, I returned to church, and you all came along and gave my merry-go-round a big push, and I am so thankful for that!

We have a full schedule of worship, study, and fellowship activities lined up all the way through Easter and beyond. Our Sunday School study is about discipleship, and the book we're using is Practicing

the Way by John Mark Comer. The subtitle is "Be with Jesus. Become like him. Do as he did." A big part of becoming and making disciples is about being together in community through worship, study, and fellowship. I hope you will avail yourselves of the opportunity to come to Sunday School and church, to participate in our Wednesday night Lenten Soup Suppers, and look for ways to be involved with your Grace Church family. We are better together because when we gather, Jesus is in our midst.

Blessing and Peace,
Rev. Betsy+

A NOTE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN: DR. JANICE PRUESSNER

It's election time again! Early voting for local, state, and federal offices began yesterday. I am praying for a spirit of tolerance and cooperation. Looking through the BCP, I found a prayer fitting for this time:

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Now please, go vote!



Reminder: Bring your flowers on Easter Sunday to flower the cross.



HOLY WEEK Schedule 2024

Sunday, March 24 - 10:30 am Palm Sunday (Meet in the courtyard to begin.)
Wednesday, March 27 - 9:00 am Holy Wednesday Eucharist
Thursday, March 28 - 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Foot Washing and Holy Eucharist
Friday, March 29 - 12:00 pm Good Friday
Saturday, March 30 - 5:00 pm - The Easter Vigil
Sunday, March 31 - 9:45 - Flowering of the Cross
10:30 am - Holy Eucharist
LEYLA KING WILL BE PREACHING ON MAUNDY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY, AND AT THE EASTER VIGIL.



The word "triduum" means literally "three days." In the Episcopal Church the Triduum is comprised of the three days before Easter Sunday. It begins with Maundy Thursday. "Maundy" means "commandment," and it is on this day that we reflect on Jesus' commandment that we love one another. We demonstrate this servant love by the washing of feet. Good Friday commemorates the day our Lord hung on the cross. It is a solemn service where we hear the story of the Passion from John's gospel and all our focus is on the cross. The Triduum concludes with the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday evening. It is the first Easter service, and it consists of The Service of Light (when the new fire is lit, the Paschal Candle is lit from the new fire, and the Exsultet is chanted), the Service of Lessons, the Renewal of Baptismal Vows, and The Eucharist.

If you have never attended the Triduum, I encourage you to do so this year. Taken together, these three services are powerful expressions of our faith grounded in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This year we are blessed to have our new diocesan Canon for Mission in Small Congregations. The Rev. Leyla King, join us to preach at all three of these services. The Easter Vigil will be a combined service with St. Paul's Brady, Calvary Menard, St. Martin's Mason, and Grace Church, and a reception will follow the service. Not only is the Triduum a time for us to be spiritually enriched but it is an opportunity for all of us to show hospitality to those who will be joining us.

Thursday, March 28 - 6:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, March 29 - 12:00 pm - Good Friday Service

Saturday, March 30 - 5:00 pm - The Easter Vigil

Diocesan Council 2024, Feb. 22-24

Grace Church members, Dr. Janice Pruessner, Gail Williams, John Stephenson, and Rev. Betsy attended council in San Marcos, led by our new Bishop David Read. Council meets once a year to carry out business responsibilities, hear updates on various ministries of the Diocese, fellowship with other churches, share ideas, and be renewed through workshops and worship. Bishop Read **shared the Council theme, "Lift High the Cross", in two addresses to the group. These were** inspiring and uplifting and can be downloaded at dwtx.org. I would encourage you to take a few **minutes and listen to them...you will enjoy them and be uplifted by our new Bishop's challenges and** learn about some of his visions for our Diocese.

A couple of things I enjoyed at Council....this is the Sesquicentennial year for our Diocese, celebrating our 150th birthday!! A 10 minute video highlighted these years. Since Grace church is celebrating our 140th year birthday, many of the events and milestones paralleled our own historical timeline. The Diocesan timeline is available at dwtx.org.

It's hard to believe that it's been almost 3 years since the mass shooting in Uvalde. The Priest at St. Philips Episcopal Church, Uvalde, updated the ongoing recovery efforts taking place in that community. In June 2023, the church facilitated the opening of the Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas next door to the church. The Outreach funds from our church continue to aid in the ongoing recovery efforts in Uvalde.

We have a new staff member in the diocese! Rev. Leyla King has been appointed as the Canon For Mission in Small Congregations. She is vibrant and engaging!! Small congregations, which make up almost 50% of the Diocese and includes Grace Church, will benefit from her ideas. She will be coming to our church for services during Holy Week. Stay tuned!! Betsy will be expecting us to show Rev. Leyla hospitality and support in attendance!! STAY TUNED!!

Also, expect to hear more about the Diocese's commitment to share the love of Christ to immigrants fleeing across the border. Plaza de Paz, San Antonio, is an ecumenical respite center for persons and families who are on a legal path to citizenship by offering short term respite and providing for basic humanitarian needs. Our Diocese supports this effort, monetarily and in person. **The Council's love offering this year, almost \$9000, was designated to Plaza de Paz.**

Consider being a Council delegate next year!! You will learn much more about our Diocese and be blessed by being in community with others across the Diocese of West Texas.

Vestry Members:

Dr. Janice Pruessner, Sr. Warden;
John Williams, Jr. Warden;

Howard Balsdon, Suzan Leggett, and Judy Waddell



DOK we will be meeting Wednesday, 3/6/2024 following the 9:00 am Holy Eucharist. We have a lot to pray for along with new opportunities to discuss. Come and join us. Aleta Barlett.

MEALS ON WHEELS

We are blessed by your service!
Thank you to Penny Adrian and
her son who have taken over the
Meals on Wheels for the Grace
Episcopal Church's spot. You are
very much appreciated!

Thank you!



We didn't raise the roof to get this new
view, but we did raise the lights.
What a beautiful sight to see the cross
as you enter the sanctuary.
We hope to be live streaming the
services by Easter.



*Songs We Love
and the Stories Behind Them*

WEDNESDAYS

February 21 - March 20 from 5:30 pm -7:00 pm

Parish Hall

Grace Episcopal Church, 1200 Oatman, Llano, TX



Save the dates

March 11-15, 2024

We'll wait closer to the date to pick
a specific day to work. We want to
check the weather status for the best day to
work. If you want on the list contact,
John Williams, 325-248-3068

Please bring your own tools and
gloves to help with the landscape
clean up in March.
Thanks for your help.

We will be providing Easter eggs for the after school
program. Each child will hunt 12 eggs.

Needed: Donations to purchase prizes for the eggs.
Please make your donations by March 24th to
Celieta Leifeste.

Needed: 1-3 volunteers to help them decorate sugar
cookies on Wednesday, March 27th at 4:30 pm.

Thank you for being the body of Christ.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee has been busy this month.

- We were able to assist a family of four who were traveling through Llano. Gasoline and a hotel room for the night were furnished for them.
- We also gave \$200 to Llano County Young Life whose mission is to build relationships with students without expectation and show them who Jesus is.
- A \$555 donation was made to Episcopal Camps and Scholarships. This is the cost of sending one child to camp Capers for a week.
- Also, a donation of \$200 was sent to Back Pack Buddies, a charitable Organization which sends food home with students in need on weekends and holidays.

Please contact one of the committee members if you know of someone in need. Thanks so much for your support,

Judy Waddell—325-248-4867; Ginger Kirchhof— 512-705-6547;

Lisa Pheil- 325-248-4065; Lynda Jones



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER HIGHLIGHTS—

Thanks to all who helped and thanks to John S. and Judy W. for the photos of the evening.



March 2024 Grace Episcopal Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT.
3rd Sunday in Lent 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist After Church Fellowship-Parish Hall	4 3:30-After-school Program	5 3:30-After-school Program	6 9:00 am – Holy Eucharist DOK –Meeting after service 3:30-After-school Program 5:30 – Lenten Soup Supper	7 3:30-After-school Program	8 FOOD BANK 9-12	9
10th Sunday in Lent 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist After Church Fellowship-Parish Hall HAPPY <i>Mother's Day</i>	11 NO After-school Program Spring Break	12 NO After-school Program Spring Break FOOD BANK 3-5:30	13 9:00 am – Morning Prayer 10:00am - Vestry Meeting NO After-school Program Spring Break 5:30 – Lenten Soup Supper	14 NO After-school Program Spring Break	15	16
Save these dates for the church landscape clean up – a day will be announced closer to this week depending on the weather.						
17th Sunday in Lent 9:30 am – Parish Breakfast 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist After Church Fellowship-Parish Hall FOOD BANK DONATIONS	18 NO After-school Program	19 3:30-After-school Program	20 9:00 am – Morning Prayer 3:30-After-school Program 5:30 – Lenten Soup Supper	21 3:30-After-school Program	22 FOOD BANK 9-12	23
24th PALM SUNDAY 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist -Begin in the Courtyard with Liturgy of the Palms After Church Fellowship-Parish Hall	25 3:30-After-school Program	26 3:30-After-school Program FOOD BANK 3-5:30	27th Holy Wednesday 9:00 am – Holy Eucharist 3:30-After-school Program 4:30- Easter Party for after school program	28 3:30-After-school Program 6:00 pm -Maundy Thursday Service	29 12:00 pm Good Friday Service	30 5:00 pm The Great Easter Vigil
31st EASTER 9:45 am-Flowering of the Cross 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist After Church Fellowship-Parish Hall						

